

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 104387

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING: SPRING REPORT

1974

REF: USNATO 2612

1. MISSION REQUESTED WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON DRAFT OF BASIC
ISSUES ANNEX TRANSMITTED REFTEL. WE FEEL THIS IS A USEFUL
SUMMARY OF US, ALLIED AND NATO PROGRESS IN CRITICAL FORCE
IMPROVEMENT AREAS. THIS REPORT HELPS PROVIDE THE VISI-
BILITY FOR ALLIED FORCE IMPROVEMENTS THAT WE NEED FOR
CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AND BETTER FORCE PLANNING. WE DEFER

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TO MISSION TO COMMENT ON SUMMARY OF ALLIED PROGRESS REPORTS

AS WE DO NOT HAVE COPIES HERE. REQUEST MISSION FORWARD
COPIES OF NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EWG.

2. AGREE WITH MISSION THAT PRESENT LANGUAGE IN PARAGRAPH
17 OF TEXT IS UNACCEPTABLE. MISSION SHOULD STRENGTHEN ITS
PROPOSED COMMENT ON THAT PARAGRAPH TO READ QTE ALTHOUGH
MINISTERS BY DECISION LAST DECEMBER SUPPORTED INFRASTRUCTURE
PROGRAMMING FOR THE REMAINING SHELTERS NEEDED TO PROVIDE
70 PERCENT COVERAGE, ETC. UNQTE. CONCUR WITH OTHER MISSION
COMMENTS.

3. OUR REMAINING COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS OF THE
DRAFT TEXT:

A. PARA 9. SECOND SENTENCE CONTAINS LANGUAGE WHICH
WOULD DILUTE MINISTERIAL DECISION OF LAST DECEMBER.
RECOMMEND THIS SENTENCE BE CHANGED TO READ QTE MINISTERS
HAVE AGREED TO SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMING TO
SHELTER 70 PERCENT OF THESE AIRCRAFT. UNQTE. IN THIRD
SENTENCE, INSERT QTE SHELTERING AND UNQTE BETWEEN 62
MILLION AND THE MINIMUM ESSENTIAL. ALSO CHANGE PER-
CENTAGE OF AIRCRAFT TO BE PREFINANCED TO 100 PERCENT.

B. PARA 10. TREATMENT OF BEDDOWN OF RAPID REACTOR
SQUADRONS IS ACCURATE AS OF MARCH 31, 1974, BUT THIS IS A
VERY DYNAMIC PROGRAM. RECOMMEND THAT MISSION ATTEMPT TO
INSERT A FOOTNOTE OR A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE SECOND SENTENCE
AS FOLLOWS, TO GIVE CREDIT TO RECENT DUTCH AND GERMAN
COOPERATION: QTE OF THE REMAINING FIVE SQUADRONS, THE
NETHERLANDS AND THE FRG HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO
DEPLOYMENT BASES FOR THREE SQUADRONS, AND SITE SURVEYS ARE
NOW TAKING PLACE. UNQTE.

C. PARA 15. CHANGE QTE AND ALSO FOR UNQTE TO QTE
INCLUDING UNQTE.

D. PARA 52. CURRENT LANGUAGE SUGGESTS THAT 50 PERCENT
INCREASE WAS TO NUMBER OF TOW'S AND DRAGON'S ALREADY IN
US BATTALIONS RATHER THAN A MORE THAN ONE-FOR-ONE
REPLACEMENT OF OLDER WEAPONS. DELETE QTE TOW AND DRAGON
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EQUIPMENT UNQTE AND SUBSTITUTE QTE HEAVY AND MEDIUM ANTI-
TANK WEAPONS. UNQTE.

4. COMMENTS ON DRAFT OF BASIC ISSUES PORTION FOR AD-70
SPRING REPORT, CONTAINED IN USNATO 2669, FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

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